

Message Text

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17

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 IO-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 SAM-01 OMB-01 OIC-04 DRC-01 /113 W

----- 026145

R 250438Z FEB 74

FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2630

INFO USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

C O N F I D E N T I A L CANBERRA 1104

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, ICRC, VN, VS, AS

SUBJ: AUSTRALIAN VOTE ON INVITATION TO PRG AT GENEVA CONFERENCE
ON LAW OF WAR

REF: SAIGON 2413

1. BELIEVE GVN FOREIGN MINISTRY ESTIMATE THAT AUSTRALIA WILL
ABSTAIN ON INVITATION TO PRG (REFTEL) IS MISUNDERSTANDING.
AUSTRALIA WOULD MOST LIKELY BE PREPARED TO HEAR PRG OR GRANT IT
OBSERVER STATUS IN SOME SUCH FORM AS AFRICAN LIBERATION MOVE-
MENTS, BUT AUSTRALIAN DEPT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS HAS GREAT
RESERVATIONS ABOUT ACCORDING PRG STATUS OF STATE. IF INVITATION
REFERRED TO IN REFTEL IS INVITATION TO PRG AS FULL MEMBER, WE
BELIEVE AUSTRALIA WOULD OPPOSE.

2. IMPOSSIBLE AT THIS POINT TO CLARIFY AUSTRALIAN POSITION MORE
FULLY. LOOMES (FIRST ASSISTANT SECRETARY, LEGAL DIVISION, DFA)
TOLD EMBOFF FEB 25 THAT BASIC INSTRUCTIONS TO AUSTRALIAN
DELEGATION AT CONFERENCE WERE NOT RPT NOT APPROVED BY FOREIGN
MINISTER WILLESEE PRIOR TO HIS DEPARTURE FOR WELLINGTON TO ATTEND
ANZUS COUNCIL MEETING. DFA WILL TRY TODAY TO GET WILLESEE TO
FOCUS ON ISSUE AND GET HIS APPROVAL FOR RECOMMENDED POSITION OF
OPPOSING FULL MEMBERSHIP FOR PRG, THOUGH POSSIBILITY OF HEARING
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PRG MIGHT BE ACCEPTABLE TO AUSTRALIANS.

GREEN

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: LAW, RECOGNITION, WAR, PRG, MEMBERSHIP APPLICATIONS, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 25 FEB 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974CANBER01104
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: CANBERRA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740212/aaaaakyc.tel
Line Count: 63
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: SAIGON 2413
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 18 JUN 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <18 JUN 2002 by kelleyw0>; APPROVED <23 JAN 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: AUSTRALIAN VOTE ON INVITATION TO PRG AT GENEVA CONFERENCE ON LAW OF WAR
TAGS: PARM, VN, VS, AS, ICRC
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005